to ICSSR which has been causing a lot of hardships and heart-burns among social scientists and non-academic staff working in 27 research centers across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of steps proposed to be taken for streamlining of ICSSR and mitigating the hardships and grievances of its staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) As per information provided by ICSSR, there is no such controversy.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Grants are being released to the Council regularly. In fact, the budget of the Council has been substantially enhanced during the last two years.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Replacement of ICSSR Chairman

3613. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand for replacement of the ICSSR Chairman, for alleged irregularities in the running of the research body; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Complaints were received from some of the sitting members of the Council regarding various irregularities committed by the Chairman, ICSSR. The Government looked into the matter and withdrew the nomination of Prof. M.L. Sondhi as Chairman, ICSSR. Prof. Sondhi has filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court and the matter is subjudice.

Mining in tribal areas in AP by non-tribals

3614. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to amend the Fifth Scheduled of the

Constitution which prohibits transfer of earmarked tribal lands to non-tribals, to overcome the related disability arising out of the Supreme Court Judgement, given in 1997, over the issue of mining in Andhra Pradesh tribal areas by non-tribals;

(b) if so, the present status of consideration of the proposal;

(c) whether some State Governments have approached the Central Government or their views have been ascertained; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals received and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAY SINGH RAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise. Illegal

trading in chrome ore by TISCO

3615. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Mines has received any proposal from the Orissa Government for cancellation of trading of chrome ore by TISCO from the Sukinda Chromite Mines, since 406 hectares of chromite mines was leased out to TISCO for their captive consumption, in pursuance of the recomrr endation of Sharma Committee set up by Government and direction by the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the reasons for which the Ministry has not yet approved the proposal to stop illegal trading of chrome ore by TISCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAY SINGH RAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Ministry of Mines, in June 2001, received a proposal from the State Government of Orissa seeking Central Govt's approval for imposing a special condition on M/s. TISCO Ltd. in respect of captive use of chrome ore by TISCO under Rule 27(3) of Mineral Concession Rule, 1960.

(b) The Central Government's decision on the proposal has already been conveyed to the Government of Orissa. The proposal could not be considered by the Central Government as the second renewal of mining lease deed was executed between the State Government and TISCO on 15.5.1998.